

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 16, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-252)

TO: Jonathan McCloud - KEWL-4
Fish & Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Umatilla Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project - **B&G Resources Easement**

Project No: 1987-100-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See Appendix A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.4 Pre-Implementation Evaluation of Proposed Enhancements, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.12 Prescribed Burning, 6.7 Water Supply: Trough, 6.8 Water Supply: Well, 7.17 Access Management

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish habitat enhancement project that will include: basin inventory and survey of streams, riparian zones, associated uplands; controlled weed burning; livestock well/trough construction; noxious weed control on CTUIR easement/watering of vegetative plantings; fence maintenance on CTUIR easements; water temperature, suspended solids, and benthic invertebrate sampling; trespass barrier construction; land preparation and planting native vegetation.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Bob Lewis, CTUIR (April 15, 2005), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

In complying with requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area (summer steelhead, bull trout, and bald eagle) would not be adversely affected by the proposed project with the possible exception of summer steelhead. Bull trout have not been documented within the basin area listed for improvement in the project statement of work. Bald eagles occur in the basin and are known to pass through the riparian corridor of project area, however there is no report or observed nesting or other occupancy of the project area. Therefore BPA has determined there to be no effect to bull trout or bald eagle. The proposed project is located in potential spawning, rearing and/or migration habitat for summer steelhead, however the proposed project will significantly enhance habitat thereby increasing productivity of listed stocks. BPA has determined that if conducted in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions identified in the ESA Section 7 consultation Biological Opinion (BO) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the BPA's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP BO), the Umatilla Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project - **B&G Resources Easement** project meets the requirements of consistency and no further consultation is required.

In complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resource survey was conducted on the proposed project area as part of a larger Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) project. A report by Ann Rogers of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (November 16, 2005) concluded that the project will have no effect on any known cultural resources. A letter dated February 6, 2006, from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office to Ann Rogers of the NRCS concurs with those findings. BPA Archaeologists concur with the conclusions and determination that no historic properties will be affected by the current project as proposed. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist would be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Umatilla Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project - **B&G Resources Easement** project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Dawn R. Boorse

Dawn R. Boorse

Environmental Specialist - KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Kathy Pierce

Kathy Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: *February 17, 2006*

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist